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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR 11 June 1954

SUBJECT Russian Inspector at VEB Carl Zeiss Jena

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
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1. On 7, 8 and 9 April 1954, A. Khrushchev inspected VEB Optik Carl Zeiss Jena and, in addition, visited monuments, museums and other points of interest in Jena, Weimar, and vicinity.
2. Khrushchev claimed to be a liaison officer between the Soviet Main Engineering Administration in Moscow and the Soviet Trade Delegation in Berlin. He furthermore stated that he was a graduate electrical engineer, and some of the technical, specialized questions that he asked would tend to confirm this statement. He produced a letter from the East German Ministry for Machine Construction which stated that bearer was authorized to inspect the Zeiss plant and should be given all possible cooperation. Khrushchev stated that his main purpose was to acquaint himself thoroughly with the entire manufacturing process, including raw materials, semifinished parts, finished parts, assembly, blueprints, and all other details connected with the A-1 aerial training device, of which 135 are to be produced in 1954 by Zeiss Jena for export to the USSR. Khrushchev asked a great number of detailed questions but took extremely few notes. He seemed very concerned when he was informed that there would be some inevitable production delays concerning the A-1 because of shortages of required raw materials or semifinished goods. Khrushchev's other stated purpose for inspecting other Zeiss shops and Jena in general was to brief himself on them so that Khrushchev in turn could brief a very high Soviet official, reported to be of the rank of Admiral, who is scheduled to visit these installations soon.

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4. Khrushchev was driven in and around Jena in a burgundy-colored BMW 4-door car reportedly belonging to the Soviet Trade Delegation in Berlin, license plates: IA 61-23. The driver of this car is a German, name unknown, reportedly managed a fairly large automobile repair shop. As the driver speaks Russian fairly fluently, he is usually assigned to drive those Russians who speak very little or no German.

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